

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A device for securing a catheter within a mouth of a patient comprising:

a guard having

an anterior region, and

two posterior regions, and

a latch in communication with said guard, and

a wedge connected to said guard and extending from one of said posterior regions; and

wherein each of said posterior regions abuts said anterior region, and said posterior regions are spaced from each other.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 [[2]], wherein said latch is mounted on said guard for rotation between an open position and a closed position.

4. (currently amended) A [[The]] device for securing a catheter within a mouth of a patient comprising:

a guard having

an anterior region, and

two posterior regions, and

a latch in communication with said guard as claimed in claim 2, wherein said latch has a first end rotatably connected to said guard and a second end detachably engagable with said guard; and

wherein each of said posterior regions abuts said anterior region, and said posterior regions are spaced from each other.

5. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 2, wherein said latch includes an end with a ball, and said guard having a socket for receiving said ball of said latch.

6. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein said guard includes a channel framed by two side walls and a wall connecting said two side walls such that said walls are in each of said anterior and two posterior regions.

7. (currently amended) ~~A [[The]] device according to claim 6, wherein said guard includes for securing a catheter within a mouth of a patient comprising:~~

a guard having

an anterior region,

two posterior regions,

a channel framed by two side walls and a wall connecting said two side walls such that said walls are in each of said anterior and two posterior regions, and

a soft material lining at least said connecting wall within the channel

a latch in communication with said guard, and

a wedge connected to said guard; and

wherein each of said posterior regions abuts said anterior region, and said posterior regions are spaced from each other.

8. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 2, further comprising a shield connecting said two posterior regions of said guard together.

9. (currently amended) ~~A [[The]] device according to claim 1, further comprising for securing a catheter within a mouth of a patient comprising:~~

a guard having

an anterior region, and

two posterior regions, wherein each of said posterior regions abuts said anterior region, and said posterior regions are spaced from each other

a latch in communication with said guard, and a wedge extending from said guard, and

wherein said guard includes a first post and a second post, said first post is in communication with said latch.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein said latch engages said second post.

11. The device according to claim 9, wherein said first post and said second post are spaced in said anterior region.

12. The device according to claim 9, wherein said latch includes an arcuate portion.

13. The device according to claim 12, wherein said wedge extends from said guard in one of said two posterior regions.

14. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, further comprising: a second guard having an anterior region and two posterior regions, a first wedge connecting said guard and said second guard together in one of said posterior regions, and a second wedge connecting said guard and said second guard together in the other of said posterior regions.

15. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, further comprising: a second guard having an anterior region and two posterior regions, and a plurality of columns, each of said plurality of columns extends between said guard and said second guard.

16. A method of securing a catheter within a patient's mouth using the device of claim 1 comprising:

covering a plurality of a patient's teeth with the guard disposed in the patient's mouth;

inserting the catheter into the patient's mouth; and

securing the catheter by clamping the catheter between the guard and the latch.

17. A securing device comprising:

means for protecting at least some teeth of a patient,

means for maintaining a distance between the protected teeth and the opposing teeth, and

means for holding a catheter against said teeth protecting means.

18. The securing device according to claim 17, wherein said holding means includes means for protecting the catheter from occlusion.

19. A device for securing a catheter within a mouth of a patient comprising:

a guard including

a channel framed by two side walls and a wall connecting said side walls,

a first post, and

a second post,

said guard having an anterior region and two posterior regions,

a latch in communication with said first post of said guard, said latch engages said second post, and

a wedge extending from said guard in one of said two posterior regions; and

wherein said first post and said second post are spaced from each other in said anterior region.

20. The device according to claim 19, wherein

said latch includes an end that engages said second post,

when said end engages said second post, said latch clamps the catheter in place against said guard,

when said end engages said second post, said latch prevents closure of a jaw of the patient, and

 said wedge prevents closure of the jaw of the patient.

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PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is a new drawing sheet showing Fig. 15.

Attachment: New drawing sheet